

CONGRESSIONAL.
XXXVI CONGRESS—First Session.
WASHINGTON, May 5.
HOUSE.—Mr. Train asked leave to re-
turn a resolution providing for a re-
man to protect the equine statue of
Washington. He stated that there was
\$17,000 remaining of the amount ap-
propriated for the inauguration ceremonies,
and it was desirable and necessary to em-
ploy watchmen till Congress shall make
arrangements for protecting the grounds.
Mr. Crawford objected. You will not
be happy until this money is spent.
[Laughter.] There is not a man on the
continent who would interfere with the
statue, or do it harm.
A voice—That's so.
Mr. Elliott asked leave to intro-
duce a resolution requesting the President
to communicate to the House the infor-
mation recently received respecting the Chi-
nese Opium Trade.
Mr. Johnson objected.
The House resumed the consideration of
private bills.
The House went into committee of the
whole.
Mr. Trimble briefly advocated the pro-
tection of domestic manufactures.
Adjourned.
WASHINGTON, May 7.
Mr. Burlingame, from the committee on
foreign affairs, reported a bill authorizing
the President to appoint a full Minister to
Sardinia, with a salary of \$12,000 per an-
num. Passed without debate.
Mr. Grow desired to postpone Terri-
torial business, which was the special order
of the day, until Thursday or Friday. The
reason was that some of his political friends
desired, at the close of the week, to go to
the Chicago Convention, who did not care
so much to be on record in Territorial
business as on the tariff question, which
will be the next important subject of con-
sideration.
Mr. Houston was not willing to vote on
the tariff bill after the Chicago Convention.
Mr. Phelps suggested that the tariff ques-
tion might be postponed, and the House
could proceed to the consideration of post-
office and other appropriation bills.
Mr. Grow said he last week moved to
postpone Territorial business till this week
because gentlemen on the Democratic side
were absent at Charleston. Members who
desire to go to Chicago should, as a matter
of courtesy, be similarly accommodated.
Mr. Morris of Illinois gave notice that
when the Territorial bill came up he
would move an amendment, giving power
to the people of organized Territories to
elect all their own officers.
Mr. Clark, of Missouri, expressed his
willingness to grant the indulgence.
Mr. Grow's motion prevailed by a large
majority.
Mr. Butler voted no, saying that the
Union Convention would meet on Tuesday
day, which seemed to have been ignored by
both the Democratic and Republican par-
ties.
Mr. Grow—I thought you'd get through
in a day.
Mr. Butler—I think I can assure you
that it will be a harmonious Convention.
A resolution offered by Sherman, that
debate on the tariff bill shall close to-
morrow at 1 o'clock, was adopted.
Mr. Sherman then spoke on the tariff
question. He said the act of 1857 was
crude and ill digested, ought never to have
been passed. Three years ago, when it
went into effect, there was a surplus of
\$17,000,000 in the Treasury, while now
the country is upward of \$65,000,000 in
debt.
He appealed to facts and figures to show
that ordinary receipts are far below ex-
penditures, and pointed to
several sources of expenditure where large
reductions could be made in appropria-
tion, but he had very little hope of suc-
cess. He said that the tariff bill was
not a revenue measure, but a protection
measure, and that it was the duty of
Congress to protect the people from the
unfair competition of foreign goods.
Messrs. Swarth and Grow also spoke in
favor of the bill.
Adjourned.
SENATE.—The galleries are crowded.
A large number of ladies are present.
Mr. Chandler offered a resolution to ad-
mit Governors of States to the privilege
of the floor—referred to Library com-
mittee.
The private bill for the relief of Gen.
Johnson, was passed.
Mr. Anthony presented a remonstrance
of the petitioners for mechanics against
the alteration of the patent law as shall
take from applicants the right of appeal
from the decision of the Commissioner.
Mr. Davis spoke in favor of the resolu-
tion, which he said were the more than
an announcement of principles of the
Constitution. Our present difficulties he
contended were the same which the found-
ers of the government had to encounter; he
contended that the government had no right
to alter the Constitution, which all have
sworn to support; that the Constitution is
the law of the land, and no question outside
of its provisions can be entertained in its
interpretation.
One great source of our difficulties, he
contended is the theory that our govern-
ment is a government of one people in-
stead of a compact between separate sov-
ereigns, the desire of separate and inde-
pendent communities, brought about the
early settlement of this continent. The De-
claration of Independence was not for col-
onies united, but for each colony separate,
and the Constitution was not for people
en masse, but for States severally.
Mr. Davis sustained these propositions
by various historical illustrations, and
closed this branch of the subject by con-
tending that States could at any time,
when they deemed necessary, resume powers
which they had only delegated to the gen-
eral government.
His remarks were continued at some
length, but much of his speech was inaud-
ible.
The speaker complained of indisposi-
tion.
Mr. Brown replied briefly to some re-
marks of Mr. Davis.
Mr. Clingman commenced a speech on
the tariff.
Adjourned.
HOUSE.—The House went into com-
mittee on the tariff.
In the committee considerable debate
took place.
Taylor and Milford (both of Ohio) tried
to introduce amendments increasing the
duty on sugar.
Pettit's amendment to repeal the duty on
sugar and molasses failed.
Adjourned.
SENATE.—A communication was re-
ceived from the Post Master General, re-
lative to dead letters, and referred to the
committee on post offices.

Several unimportant materials, ac-
cording to the report of the committee,
were presented.
Mr. Pearce offered a resolution to provide
for the observation of the total eclipse of
the sun on the 15th of July next. It au-
thorizes the employment of a vessel to
transport not more than five astronomers
to some point where the eclipse can be
best seen.
Mr. Pearce made some remarks in sup-
port of the resolution.
Mr. Brown expressed the opinion that it
would cost, not more, but less, than the
sum of \$50,000. A similar expedi-
tion was fitted out before to determine the
parallel of the equator, and cost \$5,000.
Mr. Tilton believed that the govern-
ment had no such power as that con-
templated in the resolution. It was an
off-shot of old Whiggery.
Mr. Pearce said that if the Senator
meant to say that he was an off-shot of
old Whiggery, he was correct. He ad-
hered to that party as long as it existed;
he would adhere to the Democratic party
with equal fidelity so long as it remained
in the country. If the Senator meant
more he was mistaken. The case, survey
to which this matter belonged, was estab-
lished before the Whig party existed.
After further debate the resolu-
tion was agreed to.
Mr. Brown presented a bill for deepening
the channels of rivers emptying into the
Gulf of Mexico, and authorizing certain
States to levy tonnage duties. Referred.
Mr. Davis' Territorial resolutions came
up.
Mr. Clingman finished his remarks con-
cerning Monday, arguing at length in
favor of Congressional non-interference,
and the propriety of leaving the matter to
the decision of the Courts; and against
putting a candidate for President on a
platform on which he could not be elected.
In the course of his remarks he referred
to Douglas, Hunter, Johnson and others as
equally good Democrats, whom he would
be happy to support.
Mr. Benjamin spoke at some length, ar-
guing that the Democratic platform prop-
erly construed, was sufficient. Under
what circumstances was that platform of-
fered at Charleston? It was with the un-
derstanding that it had two interpreta-
tions.
Mr. Hays denied this.
Mr. Benjamin replied that it was admit-
ted, and again, in the convention, it was
avowed also that if the construction put
on it that the citizens of the South had
the right to hold property in the Terri-
tories, and the Legislature had no right
to affect that right, that not a single
Southern State could be carried. That
was a fraud upon the good faith and honor
of the Democratic party. It was unworthy
of the Democracy to go into the campaign
on a platform wearing two aspects. He
would enter into the contest on no such
platform. Their principles he believed in
letters of light upon their banners, and
let them stand or fall.
Mr. Clingman contended that the prin-
ciple requisite for a candidate.
Mr. Douglas proposed to reply to Mr.
Davis on Thursday.
Mr. Wade gave notice that he would
present the Homestead bill to-morrow, unless
overruled by a majority of the Senate.
Mr. Douglas thought it would have been
better to have pressed it before he was at-
tacked than afterwards.
Mr. Davis said he had not attacked Mr.
Douglas. He only advocated certain prin-
ciples. He desired a vote not an intermin-
able debate.
Mr. Douglas was willing to speak then
if the Senate preferred it.
After a further debate the Senate went
into executive session.
Adjourned.
The Platforms.
We submit the majority and minority
platforms as reported in the
Charleston Convention. That body
rejected the majority platform and ac-
cepted the other. Upon this the
Southern delegates seceded.
Here is the Platform reported to the
Convention by the majority (17) of its
Grand Committee of one from each
State delegation—said majority being
made up of the representatives on said
Committee of every Slave State (15)
with those of California and Oregon:
THE MAJORITY PLATFORM.
Resolved, That the platform adopted at
Cincinnati be affirmed, with the fol-
lowing exceptions:
That the Democracy of the United
States hold these cardinal principles on
the subject of slavery in the Territories.
First, that Congress has no power
to abolish slavery in the Territories;
second, that the Territorial Legisla-
ture has no power to abolish slavery
in any Territory, nor to prohibit
the introduction of slaves therein, nor
any power to exclude slavery therefrom,
nor any power to destroy or impair the
right of property in slaves by any legisla-
tive enactment.
Resolved, That the enactments of
State Legislatures to defeat the faithful
execution of the Fugitive Slave law
are hostile in character, subversive of
the Constitution, and revolutionary in
their effect.
Resolved, That it is the duty of the
Federal Government to protect, when
necessary the rights of person and
property on the high seas, in the Terri-
tories, or wherever else its Constitu-
tional authority extends.
Resolved, That the Democracy of the
nation recognize it as the impera-
tive duty of this Government to pro-
tect the naturalized citizen in all his
rights, whether at home or in for-
eign lands to the same extent as its
native-born citizens.
Resolved, That the National Demo-
cratic party earnestly recommend the ac-
quisition of the Island of Cuba at the
earliest practicable period.
Whereas, That one of the greatest
necessities of the age, in a political,
commercial, postal, and military point
of view, is a speedy communication be-
tween the Pacific and Atlantic
coasts; therefore, be it
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